

Gorbachev offers to scrap Asia missiles

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday Moscow would agree to remove all its medium-range missiles from Europe and Asia if the United States withdrew its nuclear weapons from Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. Speaking at a dinner for visiting Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh, Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union had often expressed its readiness for a deal under which both superpowers would eliminate all their medium-range missiles. "There would be no obstacles to such a solution if the United States removed its nuclear means in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines and also withdrew its aircraft-carrying fleet beyond agreed limits," Mr. Gorbachev said. Mr. Gorbachev was responding to a demand from NATO defence ministers last week that the Soviet Union remove all its SS-20 missiles from Europe and Asia as part of a superpower deal on medium-range missiles. The superpowers had reached tentative agreement at their summit in Reykjavik last October on a deal under which they would eliminate their medium-range forces in Europe but keep 100 warheads each elsewhere.

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King receives Sudanese cleric

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received Ahmad Al Mahdi, an Islamic religious leader from Sudan. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Hanmeh returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hanmeh returned home Tuesday after he chaired the 40th session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) meetings and visiting Poland for talks on bilateral cooperation. Dr. Hanmeh told Petra that the delegates to the conference praised Jordan for the achievements it has undertaken in the field of health services and child vaccination. He added that Jordan, together with some other Arab countries, outlined to the conference the deteriorating health services in the occupied Arab territories and urged the participants to exert pressures on the Israeli authorities to improve these conditions.

SLA man killed in clash

TEL AVIV (R) — A member of an Israeli-backed militia was killed early Tuesday in a clash in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, sources said. But they said it was unclear if the militiaman from the "South Lebanon Army" was killed by guerrillas or in a clash with a fellow fighter in the village of Anata just north of the Lebanon-Israel border.

Fiji premier freed from custody

SUVA (R) — Ousted Fiji Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra was freed early Tuesday after nearly six days in military custody and said the leaders of last Thursday's coup should be tried. "These people must be taken to court," Mr. Bavadra told a welcoming crowd of about 500 on the lawn of his suburban home. "The law must play its part." Earlier, coup leader Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka told his troops that he was ready to face a treason charge and prepared to die if necessary (See page 8).

Iran-Ethiopia arms deal reported

ABUDHABI (R) — Iran signed an agreement with Ethiopia last month to buy old stocks of U.S. arms, ammunition and military spare parts, the United Arab Emirates daily Al-Ittihad reported Tuesday. Quoting diplomatic sources in London, it said the deal included fighter planes, tanks and guns, some of which were in working condition and others to be used for spare parts.

Vienna starts case against WJC chief

VIENNA (R) — The Austrian judiciary has started proceedings to make World Jewish Congress (WJC) President Edgar Bronfman answer charges of slander against President Kurt Waldheim, a Justice Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Mr. Bronfman said in Budapest this month he was convinced the Austrian head was "part and parcel of the Nazi killing machine".

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U.S. ships ordered to shoot back if threatened in Gulf

Death toll put at 37 in attack on USS Stark

• Moscow urges Washington to scale down naval presence • Reagan underlines need to end war

Combined agency dispatches

AMERICAN warships in the Gulf were on Tuesday under orders to shoot back if threatened by attack as Moscow called for the United States to reduce its naval presence in the region after a deadly Iraqi-missile attack on U.S. warship late Sunday.

The death toll on the stricken frigate USS Stark rose to 37 and the Pentagon ordered an inquiry into why the ship did not defend itself against the attack.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told a Senate committee "we do not know why" the guided missile frigate, built in 1982 and carrying an array of state-of-the-art electronic warfare systems, did not attempt to protect itself when an Iraqi plane struck in the Gulf.

"That will be one of the first orders of business of the inquiry," Mr. Weinberger said.

He announced a naval board would arrive in Bahrain on Wednesday to begin its probe.

The crippled 3,585-ton Stark was towed into Bahrain Tuesday.

After high-level meetings in Washington on Monday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan

intend will be fired upon, unless they provide adequate notification of their intentions."

Mr. Weinberger, testifying before a Senate subcommittee, said the ship was carrying a total of 222 officers and sailors when it was attacked.

Of the 37 dead, he said, 24 have been identified and their families notified. The remaining 13 have not been identified. A Pentagon spokesman said earlier that 15 sailors had been washed overboard or were still trapped in the wreckage.

Mr. Weinberger said an attack was not expected and called it "a single horrible error on the part of the Iraqi pilot."

At least one French-made Exocet plane-to-ship missile blasted the vessel on Sunday night, igniting flash fires in forward compartments.

The incident dominated U.S. newspapers, with many headline-writers highlighting the ship being caught with its guard down on its assignment to keep Gulf shipping lanes open in the midst of the six-year-old war between Iraq and Iran.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said: "We feel it is likely the (the letter) does represent an apology. It does not speak the issue of compensation," which the White House had called for in a statement earlier.

A White House statement said that under the new alert status, aircraft of Iran or Iraq "flying in a pattern which indicates hostile

(Continued on page 4)

Beirut bombers said to be PSP men

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops have arrested a Druze militia officer and eight aides in connection with a bombing spree, apparently aimed at undermining Syria's peacekeeping effort in west Beirut, a Syrian officer was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

However, three sticks of dynamite exploded in west Beirut overnight, bringing to at least 107 the number of "garbage bomb" attacks in the mainly Muslim western sector of the capital in nearly three months, police said.

The blasts came hours after Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, announced that the mastermind of the bomb attacks had been arrested.

Mr. Owen, testifying before a joint House of Representatives and Senate committee, said Tuesday that he had visited Col. North in his old executive office building, next door to the White House, last Nov. 24.

"He told me he was going to resign. He ... said he was going to be the fall guy," Mr. Owen said.

Thatcher and Kinnock kick off campaign

LONDON (AP) — With fresh polls showing her lead narrowing, Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher published her re-election campaign platform on Tuesday, promising a tax cut, more "popular capitalism" and new cuts on union power.

The Conservative leader struck a hawkish tone, saying Britain's Polaris nuclear weapons must be updated with the potent and expensive U.S. Trident system, irrespective of sweeping nuclear arms cuts being negotiated by the superpowers.

The two major parties released their strikingly contrasting platforms as the day's opinion polls showed Labour cutting two or three points off the 10-point deficit it had in the average of five previous soundings.

Mrs. Thatcher, 61, told a packed news conference her eight-year-old government was offering "power to the people." The PSP would not comment on the report.



King Fahd ibn Abdul Aziz

Fahd says Gulf war seems to be nearing end

KUWAIT (R) — King Fahd ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, in remarks published Tuesday, said the Iran-Iraq war seemed to be drawing to an end.

"Its (the war's) end seems to be approaching, but it is going through a fluctuating state," King Fahd told the Kuwait daily Al Seyassah. The newspaper did not indicate when the interview was given.

The Saudi monarch gave no hint of whether he expected the conflict, now well into its seventh year, to be decided on the warfront or brought to an end by diplomatic means.

Asked if Saudi contacts with Iran had achieved success he said: "Our contacts with them are like contacts between states. But we always remind them of the benefits of ending this war which has no reason to continue."

King Fahd, in answer to a question, said a meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, longstanding political foes, would strengthen Arab unity.

"Needless to say, such a meeting would strengthen the influence of the Arab Nation and help it achieve more unity," he said.

The Kuwait news agency KUNA, quoting Arab diplomatic sources, reported Monday that the Iraqi and Syrian leaders would hold a summit soon, which it said was "expected to end almost a decade of bitter political rivalry."

No date or venue was given by KUNA, but it said officials from the two countries were expected to meet shortly to set the stage for the summit.

A Kuwaiti daily reported early this month that the two leaders had secret talks in Jordan, preceded by a joint meeting with King Hussein and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah. Neither Baghdad nor Damascus denied the report.

King Fahd described recent talks between the leaders of Algeria and Morocco, promoted by the Saudi monarch in a bid for Arab solidarity, as "a great Arab achievement." They were held in an atmosphere of respect and cordiality, he said.

King Fahd indirectly portrayed the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as an example of Arab unity.

"The GCC has achieved Arab unity in six years at a time when the Arab League failed to achieve similar solidarity in 50 years."

She vowed to introduce legislation to protect workers from union discipline if they refuse to join a strike, to expand private home ownership and to reintroduce anti-crime legislation that parliament was unable to act on before she called an early election.

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Mrs. Thatcher, 61, told a packed news conference her eight-year-old government was offering "power to the people." The PSP would not comment on the report.

Egypt calls for more positive U.S. stand on Mideast peace conference

CAIRO (R) — Egypt wants a more positive U.S. stand on an international peace conference to break the "vicious circle" in the Middle East, a top official says.

President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser, Osama Al Baz, also says Egypt still sees a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) role in such a conference despite recent setbacks in relations between them.

In a rare, wide-ranging briefing for Western reporters Monday night, Dr. Baz said Middle East peace prospects were still alive.

"... These (prospects) would be enhanced if the United States takes a more definite position on the desirability of holding a peace conference because many parties are watching the U.S. position," Dr. Baz said.

Reagan describes outcome of PNC session as negative

KUWAIT (Agencies) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in an interview published Tuesday, described the outcome of the latest session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) as negative for peace in the Middle East.

The decisions taken at the PNC meeting in Algiers last month, Mr. Reagan told the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas, indicated a "negative and unrealistic" trend in efforts towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and restoring peace to the Middle East.

The PNC decided to curb contacts with Egypt and abrogated the Feb. 11, 1985 accord on political coordination with Jordan. These two moves were seen as dealing severe blows to efforts towards convening an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices.

King Fahd, in answer to a question, said a meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, longstanding political foes, would strengthen Arab unity.

"Needless to say, such a meeting would strengthen the influence of the Arab Nation and help it achieve more unity," he said.

He said the form of Palestinian representation was a matter to be decided by the parties concerned in the dispute. Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO.

Mr. Reagan was quoted as saying there has been "significant progress" in recent weeks towards establishing negotiations, although he did not specify to what he was referring.

Mr. Reagan said the U.S. had extended over \$2 billion in economic and military aid to Egypt since 1974, and despite budget cuts had maintained its funding at \$2.3 billion for 1987.

He said Washington was committed to an open-door policy for foreign investment and added "any responsible" government should not feel threatened by U.S. action to freeze Iranian and Libyan assets.

He said total foreign investment in the U.S. including what he called direct and portfolio investment along with government deposits, had more than doubled by the end of 1986 from \$500 billion in 1980.

Mr. Reagan, who accused Libya of involvement in December 1985 guerrilla attacks at Rome and Vienna airports, last year imposed a freeze on Libyan government assets in the U.S. and with U.S. banks abroad.

The previous administration of President Jimmy Carter froze Iranian assets after the 1979 American embassy siege in Tehran.

Mr. Reagan was quoted as saying by Al Qabas that the United States continued to support an end to fighting in Lebanon but recognised that no outside power, however well-intentioned, can be a substitute for efforts by the Lebanese themselves, nor can Lebanon's political problems be solved by force.

Mahdi to form new government

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi was given permission Tuesday to form a new government by Sudan's Supreme Council, a five-man body acting as a collective head of state. The council said in a statement it had acceded to Mr. Mahdi's request that the cabinet be dismissed so he could form a new administration, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. Mr. Mahdi invoked a constitutional clause on May 13, empowering him to ask the council to dismiss all cabinet members except himself, saying they had failed to resolve Sudan's economic problems. Mr. Mahdi told a news conference on Tuesday, the dismissal of the cabinet meant talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), set to begin in Khartoum on Wednesday, would have to be postponed. "We have put off the date for two weeks in view of the present circumstances and we hope that we will then conclude an agreement on the points we agreed upon," he said. Earlier this month, Mr. Mahdi said Sudan and the IMF were in agreement over almost all issues under discussion, except for the Fund's demand for unification of Sudan's multi-tiered foreign exchange system.

PLO offices in Egypt.

Dr. Baz said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had succumbed to Syrian and Algerian pressure on this issue.

"It is regrettable that the PLO had to pay such a heavy price in return for normal unity in its ranks," he said.

Dr. Baz urged the PLO to come to terms with Jordan and said the PNC resolutions cast doubt on its credibility as a party to the peace process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres contended in New York last week that Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Syria wanted the PLO kept out of an international conference.

Asked if Egypt was ready to

(Continued on page 3)

Peres: Moscow should outline its position

Labour leader acknowledges differences with U.S. over future of Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday asked the Soviet Union to define its position on a proposed international peace conference and outline exactly what role it expects to play in such a forum.

Mr. Peres also said the United States and Israel have conflicting views about the future of Jerusalem, one of the issues likely to be discussed at such a conference.

He spoke to reporters after returning from a four-day visit to the United States where he sought Reagan administration support for his peace plan. He met twice with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Shultz has said the United States would only participate in the conference if the full Israeli government backs it. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightist Likud would then have formed a narrow government without it. Labour and its allies had 58 votes in the 120-seat parliament.

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. professor denies Israeli charge of organising protest

RAMALLAH (AP) — An American professor, on trial before an Israeli military court, denied Tuesday that he organised an anti-Israeli protest and said he only witnessed it from a shop where he was buying juice for his 18-month-old son.

The military judge recessed the trial for 10 days Tuesday, granting the prosecution a request for more time to find witnesses.

Roger Heacock, a history professor from Philadelphia who is now teaching European history at Birzeit University, is charged with organising and leading a women's march in Ramallah on Feb. 16 and of inciting shopkeepers in the town to close their stores in a subsequent protest demonstration.

On Tuesday, five defence witnesses testified, including Ann Sandin, a Nebraska school teacher who witnessed the incident. She told the court Prof. Heacock did not take part in the protest but said Prof. Heacock signaled to her that he had been arrested.

Prof. Heacock was jailed for three days, then released Feb. 19 on \$4,200 bond.

Prof. Heacock has maintained the arrest was due to his outspoken criticism of Israeli soldiers in their fatal shooting of two unarmed students

Hawke orders closure of Libyan mission

CANBERRA (R) — Australia ordered Tuesday the immediate closure of the Libyan People's Bureau and gave all Libyan diplomats 10 days to leave the country.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke told a news conference the government had taken the decision after careful consideration of what he described as the "destabilising role" of Libya in the South Pacific.

The move was not directly connected with the current civil unrest in Fiji following a military takeover last week, he said.

But he said there was a "broad conceptual inter-relationship between the issues involved."

Mr. Hawke also cited recent paramilitary training provided by Libya to dissident groups in the French territory of New Caledonia and the Indonesian provinces of Irian Jaya and East Timor. He also accused Libya of being involved in divisive activities in Australia but did not give any details.

Officials said it was a reference to Libya's recent support for radical groups within the aboriginal community.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Libyan mission, which had only two diplomats, had been established in Canberra for several years. The present secretary, Shaban Gashut, arrived in November, 1984.

Australia has no mission in Tripoli but its embassy in Rome deals with Libya on diplomatic matters.

Mr. Hawke, who has been severely critical of what he termed Libya's "attempts to gain a foothold in the South Pacific," said last month there was no evidence that Libyan mission in Canberra was involved in subversive activities.

Libya established formal ties with the South Pacific island state

of Vanuatu last year but has yet to open a mission in Port Vila, the capital.

About a dozen members of Vanuatu's ruling Vanuaku party visited Libya in the past few months, some undergoing anti-terrorist training.

Western diplomats said a handful of dissidents from New Caledonia and Irian Jaya and a group of trade unionists from the Solomon Islands had also visited Tripoli.

Earlier this month, Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange held a hastily arranged conference to discuss the Libyan issue.

Mr. Hawke said his government had voiced concern before about Libyan activities in the region.

"Some of these activities have been conducted openly, others, many others, with varying degrees of clandestinity. They have become more intense in the course of this year," he said.

He said New Caledonia, where indigenous Melanesian Kanaks seek independence from France, had the greatest potential for regional destabilisation.

"Libya has a legitimate interest in the region," Mr. Lange added, noting that Tripoli had a mission in Kuala Lumpur as well as Canberra.

Mr. Lange was asked then if Australia understood the region as well as New Zealand.

"I think that there are difficulties sometimes (in Australia). The larger the power, the harder it is — and that's the truth of it," he said.

Last month, aboriginal activist Michael Mansell created a furor

in Australia when he called on those attending a revolutionary conference in Libya to help aborigines fight for their rights.

Mansell said on his return that Col. Qadhafi would establish a separate aboriginal nation in Australia if the government continued to ignore aborigines.

In Wellington, Mr. Lange said his government did not intend to cut Libya's links with New Zealand.

Diplomats at the Canberra bureau are accredited to Wellington where there is no permanent Libyan mission.

Mr. Lange said in a statement Mr. Hawke had advised him of Australia's decision.

"It is not the current intention of the New Zealand government to terminate the existing accreditation of the Libyan People's Bureau to New Zealand," he said.

"No application or request for a bureau to be established in New Zealand has been received," Mr. Lange said.

New Zealand has distanced itself from Australian concern about relations between Libya and Vanuatu and Mr. Lange said on May 11 that Tripoli had a legitimate interest in the region.

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"Libya has a legitimate interest in the region," Mr. Lange added, noting that Tripoli had a mission in Kuala Lumpur as well as Canberra.

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Beirut building collapses; 5 killed

BEIRUT (R) — A block of flats collapsed in mainly Muslim west Beirut Tuesday, killing five people and leaving six others still unaccounted for, police said.

They said a pregnant woman was one of the victims dragged from the rubble by scores of rescue teams working feverishly to find survivors.

The Shaaaban Building collapsed at dawn in what residents said was a roll of thunder and a huge cloud of choking dust.

Initially, police attributed the incident to structural damage during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Civil defence officials later told Reuters that activity at a nearby building site had undermined the four-storey Shaaaban.

Ambulances sped to the Abu Shaker suburb while Syrian and Lebanese troops cordoned off the area to prevent crowds from hampering rescue operations.

Most Shaaaban residents were asleep when their homes fell apart, witnesses said.

One woman, sobbing with grief, carried the picture of her niece, still missing hours after the building collapsed.

"Dear God," she cried. "This is my niece, my only relative left on this earth."

Men shouted "Allah-O-Akbar" (God is Great) as rescuers pulled bodies, many of them still clad in pyjamas or nightgowns, from the pile of wreckage. One 18-year-old youth was found alive under the broken masonry and rushed to hospital.

"This is like an air raid or car bomb," said one elderly onlooker. "But we're not used to our homes collapse over our heads for no apparent reason."

Beirut, with population of nearly two million people, has been repeatedly hit by street battles and air raids over the past 12 years of civil war.

Separately on his return from a four-day visit to the United States, Peres told reporters: "Israel has always avoided discriminating between Arabs and Jews in as far as taxes and payments are concerned. It is an unfortunate and unnecessary decision that should be corrected."

The decision — backed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Bloc and opposed by Peres's Labour Party — imposed new strains on their shaky coalition government already divided over an international Middle East peace conference.

Arabs, who make up about 3,500 of the 60,000 students at government universities, boycotted classes in protest Monday. Hundreds of Jewish and Arab students demonstrated against the cabinet decision.

The presidents of Hebrew University and Haifa University said they would refuse to charge Arab students higher tuition.

"This is a moral decision. We will not have discrimination in our university. Everyone will pay the same fee," Hebrew University President Ephraim Evron said as the decision was set by the Jerusalem Post.

The daily also quoted Haifa

University President Amnon Pazy as saying the decision was

wrongly set as a dangerous precedent.

National Student Union leader David Berman said he would challenge the cabinet decision in the supreme court.

Students are now paying \$1,400

in tuition but a third of it is a

special tax due to end this year.

The universities sought new fees of \$2,300 to help overcome a financial crisis but striking students earlier this year demanded tuition be set at \$800.

U.S. sailors 'had no warning' of Gulf attack

WIENSBADEN, West Germany (Agencies) — Two American sailors injured in an Iraqi air attack in the Gulf were quoted Tuesday as saying they did not know they were in any danger until an explosion ripped their frigate.

The two arrived at the Rhein-Main Airbase close to Frankfurt early Tuesday and were taken to a U.S. hospital in nearby Wiesbaden which specialises in treating burns.

"All hell broke loose when the ship was hit. They (the sailors) just fell through a hole into the water."

"They did not know what hit them. They were on deck, then came a huge bang — then they fell through a huge hole," he told a news conference here.

Asked if he meant the men were not aware of the attack, he answered: "Yes sir, they heard no planes, no warning."

The ambassador said two badly wounded had been flown to West Germany and a further four less seriously hurt were recovering at a Bahrain military hospital.

About two dozen other crew members suffered minor injuries in the attack, he added.

All the men he spoke to were concerned about their families. Mr. Zakhem would not give full names of the injured but said two of them, named Mark and James, asked him to "call my mom."

The Stark on Monday night was still close to the point at which it was hit about 85 miles north east of Bahrain, with some of the crew still on board, the ambassador said.

Lebanese-born Zakhem was posted to Bahrain seven months ago. He told the newsmen he was aboard a U.S. navy ship in Bahrain port when the attack on the Stark took place.

Perry, who visited the families of several Stark crewmen after Sunday's attack and talked to sailors at the base, said the time before families were told the names of the dead and injured was the most difficult part.

That time was especially hard for two wives of crew members, who did not know their husbands fate on the Stark, said Sir Ferguson, director of service to military families and veterans at the Jacksonville Red Cross.

One of the two gave birth Monday to a healthy girl in Jacksonville, said Ms. Ferguson, and the Red Cross sent a message with the news to the ship. Another crewman's wife was getting ready to deliver, she added.

Mayport is home to 35 ships, including the aircraft carriers USS Forrestal and USS Saratoga, which participated in the April 1986 bombing of Libya. The naval station also has an airbase, home for four helicopter squadrons manned by 40 crew members.

About 18,000 naval personnel work on the palm tree-lined base, which with Jacksonville Naval Air Station and Cecil Field Naval Air Station employ a total of 39,000 people.

Congress wants administration to heed war power resolution

WASHINGTON (R) — Congress concerned over the Gulf missile attack said they want to ensure the administration abides by the war powers resolution, which gives Congress a say in placing U.S. servicemen in war zones.

The resolution, approved over the veto of President Richard Nixon in 1973 in response to the undeclared and divisive Vietnam war, gives Congress a greater role when U.S. troops are put in hostile situations.

Among the many provisions is one that could force troops to be withdrawn from hostile areas unless Congress approves continued involvement.

"One may argue that it (the Gulf attack) might be covered by the war powers terms, technically," the speaker of the House of Representatives, Jim Wright told reporters, referring to the Iraqi missile attack on the guided-missile frigate USS Stark off Bahrain.

"I think the United States must discover what happened and who did it and get satisfactory assurances from that party," the Democrat also said Monday.

The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East said it would hold hearings into the attack on the Stark.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Claiborne Pell, a Rhode Island Democrat, said, "this demonstrates the absolute urgency of bringing about an end to this conflict (Iran-Iraq war)."

U.S. to press case of 10 charged in arms plot

NEW YORK (AP) — Government prosecutors have said they would not drop their year-old case against 10 men charged in a \$2.2-billion Iran arms smuggling scheme.

Earlier, prosecutors had asked for delays after it was disclosed that President Ronald Reagan's administration authorised arms sales to Iran. Washington investigators probed whether some of the money had been diverted to the contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's government.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Lorna Schofield told U.S. district Judge Leonard B. Sand on Monday that the government did not need more time, although "various investigations are continuing" into the Iran-contra affair "and facts are emerging daily."

"We're extremely pleased," said Albert Mokhiber, director of legal services for the American

Arabs, Jews praise U.S. court ruling on civil rights

NEW YORK (AP) — Jewish and Arab groups were united in bailing a U.S. supreme court ruling which extended broad civil-rights protections to the two ethnic groups.

The unanimous ruling, issued Monday in two cases, held that U.S. civil-rights laws originally aimed at preventing and redressing discrimination against blacks were just as applicable to other groups victimised by discrimination.

Sam Rabino, legal director of the American Jewish Committee, said his organisation was "overjoyed" with the ruling.

He said there had been little difficulty in Arabs and Jewish groups joining together in support of the two cases.

Several attorneys predicted the decision would prompt many other civil-rights suits by members of ethnic groups not accustomed to considering themselves eligible for such relief.

The key element is that it sends a message, that perpetrators of vandalism or discriminatory conduct will feel an impact where it hurts the most: in the pocketbook," said Jeffrey Sinsheim, legal director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"The decision itself was seen as an extension of civil-rights protection from a supreme court usually divided on such matters in recent years.

But nearly as important, the ruling was seen as the fruit of an extremely rare collaboration among Arab, Israeli and black civil-rights groups who put aside differences and filed briefs in support of each other's cases.

"We're extremely pleased," said Albert Mokhiber, director of legal services for the American

Algerian premier arrives in Jeddah

JEDDAH (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Abd al-Hamid Brahimi has arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks expected to focus on the Western Sahara conflict, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The agency said he arrived at the Red Sea port of Jeddah Monday night but gave no further details.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd presided over a meeting of Moroccan and Algerian leaders, at odds over the conflict, in a move to pave the way for a peaceful settlement.

Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony.

He said he was still trying to secure the release of British church envoy Terry Waite, who went missing in Beirut four months ago during a mission to free U.S. hostages.

Sayed Mohammad Hussein Fadilah, influential with Lebanon's radical pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God), told Reuters he had tried unsuccessfully to

Fadlallah searching for Waite

BEIRUT (R) — A pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim cleric has said he was still trying to secure the release of British church envoy Terry Waite, who went missing in Beirut four months ago during a mission to free U.S. hostages.

"So far I have not managed to move forward a single step ... but I am still pursuing the issue," Fadlallah said.

He blamed Washington for lack of progress towards freeing the 28 foreigners believed to be hostages in Lebanon, saying their fate had been "locked into an American deep freeze."

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	GENERAL
Amman governorate 891228	Jordan Television 773111/19
Amman Civil Defence 271293, 273121	Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311	Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666112	Price complaints 661176
Telephone information 12	Telephone information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10	Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11	Repair service 11

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	Dr. David Taher 624675
	Dr. Ghaleb Sanna (-)

Dajani approves statutes of business association

Interior Rajai Dajani Tuesday announced his approval of by-laws and statutes of the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA).

The JBA has been established with the purpose of creating a suitable climate for the private sector to enable it to play its pioneering role in stimulating the national economy, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The JBA was established in 1985 and at present has a membership of more than 50 leading businessmen in the country, according to Mr. Abu Hassan, chairman of the JBA.

He said that the presidents of the chambers of commerce and industry are both JBA members and the statute approved by the minister was in fact an amended version of statutes that have existed since 1985.

The JBA is working to help promote economic and social im-

plications in the country and assist companies and individuals in promoting the private sector's activities, according to Petra.

The statute authorizes the JBA to form a joint council with similar bodies in Arab and foreign countries with the purpose of promoting trade and investment relations among various countries through businessmen and their associations, the news agency said.

Every businessman in Jordan has the right to apply for the JBA membership provided he is above 30 years of age and enjoys qualifications and good reputation that make him eligible for such membership.

Mr. Abu Hassan on Tuesday held meetings with the presidents of Amman chambers of commerce and industry to review scopes of cooperation between them and the JBA.

Khayyat in Morocco for seminars on religion

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Tuesday left for Casablanca to take part in a series of seminars and lectures being held during the holy month of Ramadan.

The seminars and lectures are being held in the city of Casablanca under the patronage of King

Hassan II of Morocco and are being attended by senior Islamic ulema and leaders.

Dr. Khayyat is expected to deliver a lecture and meet with religious leaders from Morocco to discuss means of bolstering Jordanian-Moroccan cooperation in religious affairs.

7th children's conference gets under way July 2.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Seventh Arab Children's Conference is to open in Jordan on July 2, 1987 with delegations from various Arab countries taking part in the events and activities, according to an announcement made Tuesday by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) which organizes the annual event.

This year's event will be the seventh in a row, and the NHF has extended invitations to Arab states to send four children, between the ages of 10 and 13, to take part in the activities which were initiated by Her Majesty Queen Noor in 1979, according to a NHF spokesman.

To prepare for the event NHF Director General Mrs. Iman Al Mufti Tuesday chaired a meeting of a preparatory committee to review the activities to be carried out during this year's six-day conference.

The idea of the children's conference, Mrs. Mufti said, emerged in the wake of an Arab summit meeting held in Amman in 1980. The conference is aimed at providing children with the opportunity of meeting and familiarizing themselves with the culture of their Arab Nation, Mrs. Mufti said.

Mrs. Mufti noted that 350 children have so far taken part in the annual children's conferences held in the Kingdom over the past seven years.

This year's events include a meeting between the Queen and the children, and also a tour by the children of different archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

The preparatory committee has set up a working team and two subcommittees to supervise the children's activities during the conference.

Egypt urges positive U.S. stand

(Continued from page 1)

"abandon" to PLO, Dr. Baz said: "Egypt cannot act alone. If the PLO does not reach agreement with Jordan on a new formula then they will be missing the last wagon on the last train."

Dr. Baz added: "If the PLO does not get its act together with Jordan, we have to sit down and see what options remain available. We are not going to sit down and watch the peace process come down and be demolished."

Dr. Baz said a Tunis statement on Monday in which the PLO Executive Committee announced plans to redefine relations with Cairo was a first step to redressing ties. But, he said, "this is not adequate yet."

If the peace process broke down, he said, Israel might consolidate its hold over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"... This is a dreadful prospect that threatens both the Arabs and Israel and threatens U.S. interests in the Middle East," Dr. Baz said.

Before the PLO could be pressured into defining its position, Israel would first have to accept the concept of an international conference, over which its coalition government is divided, he said.

"The moment of truth will come as far as the PLO is concerned when Israel agrees and the U.S. puts its full weight behind the idea. Then it will be an Arab responsibility to come up with a Palestinian formula," Dr. Baz said.

Mr. Shultz said Sunday the United States supports a unified Jerusalem but that the status of the city should be resolved in negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

Referring to Mr. Shultz's statement, Mr. Peres said: "Surely our view is clear. We consider Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel. None of us is ready to put a question mark on the fact that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that Jerusalem shall and will be."

Mr. Shultz warned on Monday that even the United States would not back the Jewish state in an international peace conference.

Mr. Shultz quoted Mr. Shultz as saying that if the conference was convened, the U.S. position would be that the West Bank, Gaza and Arab Jerusalem are negotiable. Mr. Shultz opposes territorial concessions.

"If this is the position of our best friend, what can we expect from our enemies?" Mr. Shultz said in a question-and-answer session with 400 high school students in a Tel Aviv suburb.

Mr. Shultz reiterated his view that Israel would be isolated in such a forum and be exposed to "extraordinary international pressure" to make "territorial concessions."

"I see a terrible danger in such a conference," Mr. Shultz said. "What happened to Israel that she is running into such a trap?"



Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan (third from left) confers Tuesday with General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Chairman Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib (fourth from left) and Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib (second from left), about a joint project to build a home for the elderly and disabled (Petra photo)

Ministry, GUVS cooperate on construction of old age home

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development will shortly announce the allotment of a piece of land on which a village is to be built to house the elderly and the senile people of Jordan, in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced Tuesday.

He made the announcement at a meeting of leaders of voluntary societies in the Amman Governorate which was attended also by GUVS Chairman Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib and Mr. Fakhri Bilbeisi, his deputy, and Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi, the country's mufti.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that his ministry will examine the prospect of updating legislation pertaining to voluntary work in the Kingdom. He said his ministry and GUVS maintain very close cooperation in all matters connected with voluntary and charitable work in the country.

The government is determined, Mr. Haj Hassan said, to provide GUVS with all possible assistance to enable it to shoulder its task. He said that the government plans to study the prospect of exempting from customs duty machinery and equipment im-

ported for the sake of implementing programmes and activities by charitable societies especially in improving the life of handicapped persons.

Charities in occupied territories

The ministry is keen on extending help and support to charitable and voluntary societies in the occupied Arab territories because of their humanitarian services. The minister noted that these societies act as a substitute for a national government in the occupied territories in terms of organizing health, educational, social, and charitable services for the Arab population under Israeli rule.

He said that the government's drive to help these societies also reflects Jordan's determination to bolster the steadfastness of the Arab people in the face of Israel's repressive measures against the Arab population.

Voluntary work, the minister said, can serve as a basis for social development anywhere in the country.

New phase of GUVS development

Dr. Khatib made a speech at

the meeting in which he said that GUVS has embarked on a new phase in its development by allocating sums of money for investment in different projects to generate income that would finance GUVS projects on the two banks of Jordan.

Dr. Khatib presented a number of requests to the minister, all designed to enable the voluntary sector to carry on with its humanitarian task. He called on the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to exempt equipment from customs duty, to include GUVS workers in the Social Security Corporation, and to offer state owned land for GUVS projects.

Dr. Khatib also voiced GUVS's appreciation to the Ministry of Labour and Social Development for its support and continued help to the voluntary and charitable societies in the Kingdom.

The minister and others attending the meeting had earlier made a tour of the Ramadhan Charity Market, which was established by GUVS on Jabal Hassen. The proceeds from the market will be used to finance the education of 200 needy university students in Jordan.

Musicians blend Orient, Occident in evening of 'breathtaking' music

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times



Egyptian Hussein Al Masry (left) and French Yves Gruson (right) team up for a beautiful blend of Arab and European music at a concert this evening at Amman Baccalaureate School.

Mr. Al Masry at the Theatre de Paris in 1985 and on a Radio France programme. His efforts aim at bringing the lute to a "second Renaissance," since the instrument was virtually discarded after its glorious life in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Listening to Hussein Al Masry and Yves Gruson, whether playing solo or duets, or to Mr. Al Masry "taksim" (improvisation) can only be qualified as breathtaking.

Yves Gruson began originally as a guitarist but is now dedicated to the lute. He has appeared as a soloist with prestigious musical ensembles. He performed with

in the fast delivery service. The minister was accompanied on the tour by Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif.

Jordanian delegation returns from postal union meeting

Jordan took part in a meeting by the Executive Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) which opened in Switzerland on April 26 and lasted 20 days.

The director of the Postal Affairs Department at the Ministry of Communications, Mr. Hashem Al Qudah, attended the meeting which discussed subjects related to postal services worldwide in addition to fast mail delivery.

Minister tours post offices, reviews fast mail services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Muhieddine Al Husseini Tuesday made an inspection tour of post offices in Amman and was briefed on the telegraphic and telephone services for the public.

Later, the minister held a meeting with senior officials and urged them to improve the process of mail delivery and asked to be informed of the actual needs of post offices to facilitate their work.

During the tour, the minister reviewed the work of the fast mail delivery system which was initiated in July last year and which now links Jordan with 19 Arab and foreign countries. He was also briefed on arrangements to include Turkey and Switzerland

Omani official ends talks on economic issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Oman Ministry of Industry and Trade Ahmad Abdul Nabi left for home Tuesday at the end of his visit to Jordan, during which he held talks on trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and Oman.

Mr. Abdul Nabi held talks with senior officials at the ministries of finance and trade and industry, focusing mainly on the flow of trade between the two countries.

In a pre-departure statement, the Omani official paid tribute to the strong ties existing between Jordan and Oman. He said that his talk dealt among other things with Jordanian help in organizing an Omani financial market and securities market.

EC to allot JD 38m to Jordan in grants and loans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) is offering financial assistance and soft loans to eight countries in the Mediterranean region including Jordan, which will receive 100 million European currency units (ECUs). This amounts to JD 38 million, or \$111 million.

A statement issued by the delegation of the Commission of the European Community in Amman said that the grants and the loans will total 1,618 million ECUs (\$1.8 billion) for the whole group of countries in the region.

Of these, the statement said

615 ECUs will be in the form of grants and the rest, 63 million, will be in the form of loans to the EIB.

The assistance, it said, will be used mainly to finance food security projects and to help develop industry and technology in the Kingdom. The total loans and

grants for the eight countries according to the statement cover the period between 1987 and 1992. Jordan had earlier received a total of 103 million ECUs from the EC between 1979 and 1986.

The grants and the loans were originally endorsed by the 12-member community group in March when it was announced that Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, and Jordan will be the recipients.

Up to now Jordan has received ECU 103 million from the EC protocols: ECU 63 million in the second financial protocol (1981-1986), and ECU 43 million in the first financial protocol (1979-1981).

Inter-Parliamentary Union backs Mideast peace conference — senator

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting held in the Nicaraguan capital earlier this month was virtually unanimous about the need to hold an international peace conference under U.N. auspices, Senator Walid Salah, head of Jordan's delegation to the conference, said here Tuesday.

Mr. Salah told reporters that the IPU meeting in Managua discussed the participation of the world's parliaments in an international campaign aimed to bring about the convening of the proposed conference to be attended by the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Arabs have to do their utmost in convincing the U.S. administration about the need of holding such a conference" to solve the Mideast issue on a "peaceful and useful" basis, said Senator Salah.

Other main topics on the IPU agenda included the situation in Lebanon, including implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning that problem, and support for international efforts to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

According to the senator, the IPU meeting also discussed all resolutions and statements related to efforts that had been endorsed by the IPU's meetings concerning the Mideast peace.

In addition, the IPU meeting discussed world parliaments' contribution to the establishment of a more equitable world trading system, and the removal of tariffs and other obstacles that impede trade among nations. These have negative effects on social and economic development, Mr. Salah noted.

The delegates also expressed concern about the negative effect of the instability in the world monetary and financial situation,

and voiced anxiety over the growing volume of indebtedness to Third World countries, Mr. Salah added.

The IPU meeting, Mr. Salah pointed out, has issued a statement calling on all parliaments to help bring about peace in Central America through intensive diplomatic contacts.

One of the IPU's resolutions endorsed a call for the establishment of a preparatory committee



The head of Jordan's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Senator Walid Salah (centre; with tie) and fellow delegate Secretary General of Jordan's Parliament Hani Kheir, relax with host of the IPU's recent meeting in Managua, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

under the U.N. Security Council's auspices, with participation of all permanent U.N. Security Council members, take the steps necessary for convening an international peace conference. Such a preparatory committee would allow progress to be made towards undoing the dangerous knot of tension in the Middle East.

The gathering also reaffirmed its belief that a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the Middle East should envisage Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967; that the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their rights to self-determination and the removal of tariffs and other obstacles that impede trade among nations. These have negative effects on social and economic development, Mr. Salah noted.

The delegates also expressed concern about the negative effect of the instability in the world monetary and financial situation, and voiced anxiety over the growing volume of indebtedness to Third World countries, Mr. Salah added.

The gathering also requested the inter-parliamentary council to establish a parliamentary support committee to contribute to the international campaign for the successful holding of the international peace conference on the Middle East.

Touching on the almost seven year old Iran-Iraq war, the IPU called on both countries to settle their conflict through negotiations and cooperation with the U.N. secretary general concerning his efforts and proposals regarding the war.

The group also urged all parties concerned to end the cycle of violence in Lebanon and to assist the work of the international relief agencies to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population.

It also invited all governments capable of exercising influence on groups holding hostages to mediate their release.

The IPU strongly voiced its support for Lebanon and its lawful government in establishing security, stability and national unity on its territory, and called for the respect of Lebanese sovereignty and independence.

Mu'ta University adds French to curricula

KARAK (J.T.) — Mu'ta University plans to introduce French language in its humanities curriculum in the coming 1987-1988 academic year, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

The announcement was carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, during a visit to the university by the assistant director of the French Cultural Centre in Amman, Mr. Jean Michael Coste.

It said that Mr. Coste and the University President Dr. Ali Mahafza discussed cooperation in cultural affairs between Jordan and France in general and French help in starting the French language courses at the university in particular.

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Danger of the Gulf

THE missile attack against the U.S. frigate Stark Sunday, coming as did one day after a sea mine damaged the Soviet tanker Marshal Chukov, should awaken the superpowers from their deep slumber vis-a-vis the Iran-Iraq conflict. The war in the Gulf has been going on for almost seven years now with both Washington and Moscow paying only lip service to attempts aimed at ending it. Now that their immediate interests have been touched directly, it is only fair to expect that the two superpowers should exert more genuine and sincere efforts to bring peace and stability back to the Gulf area.

It is most unfortunate that such efforts by states, which have the means and influence to affect the course of the Gulf war, should come only after the immense suffering and loss of life by both Iraq and Iran and after the death and injury of so many Americans on board the U.S. ship.

In the context of the overriding issue of the continuous war between Iran and Iraq and the subsequent disruption to shipping and navigation in the Gulf, it matters little which warring party had fired on the U.S. frigate. By most reasonable accounts the U.S. navy ship, which was patrolling the Gulf in international waters, was attacked by mistake. Iraq at least would definitely avoid an intentional attack on the U.S. fleet at all costs.

Jordan together with the other Arab countries in the Middle East have been warning for years that the big powers should bring pressure to bear on the recalcitrant party, namely Iran, with a view to end the senseless Gulf war. The Arab countries have repeatedly warned and cautioned the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that without their serious efforts the war would simply continue to grow, and engulf other countries. The permanent members of the Security Council and in particular the two superpowers are entrusted with the task and obligation to deal effectively with issues and situations that threaten world peace.

It is most comforting to hear President Ronald Reagan say that the attack on the U.S. frigate "underscores the need to bring the Iran-Iraq war to its prompt end," and that the U.S. and the rest of the international community "must redouble their efforts to hasten settlement that will preserve the sovereign and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq." We could not agree more with the president of the U.S., even though we wish he said his words seven years earlier.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Rabin, Shultz agree

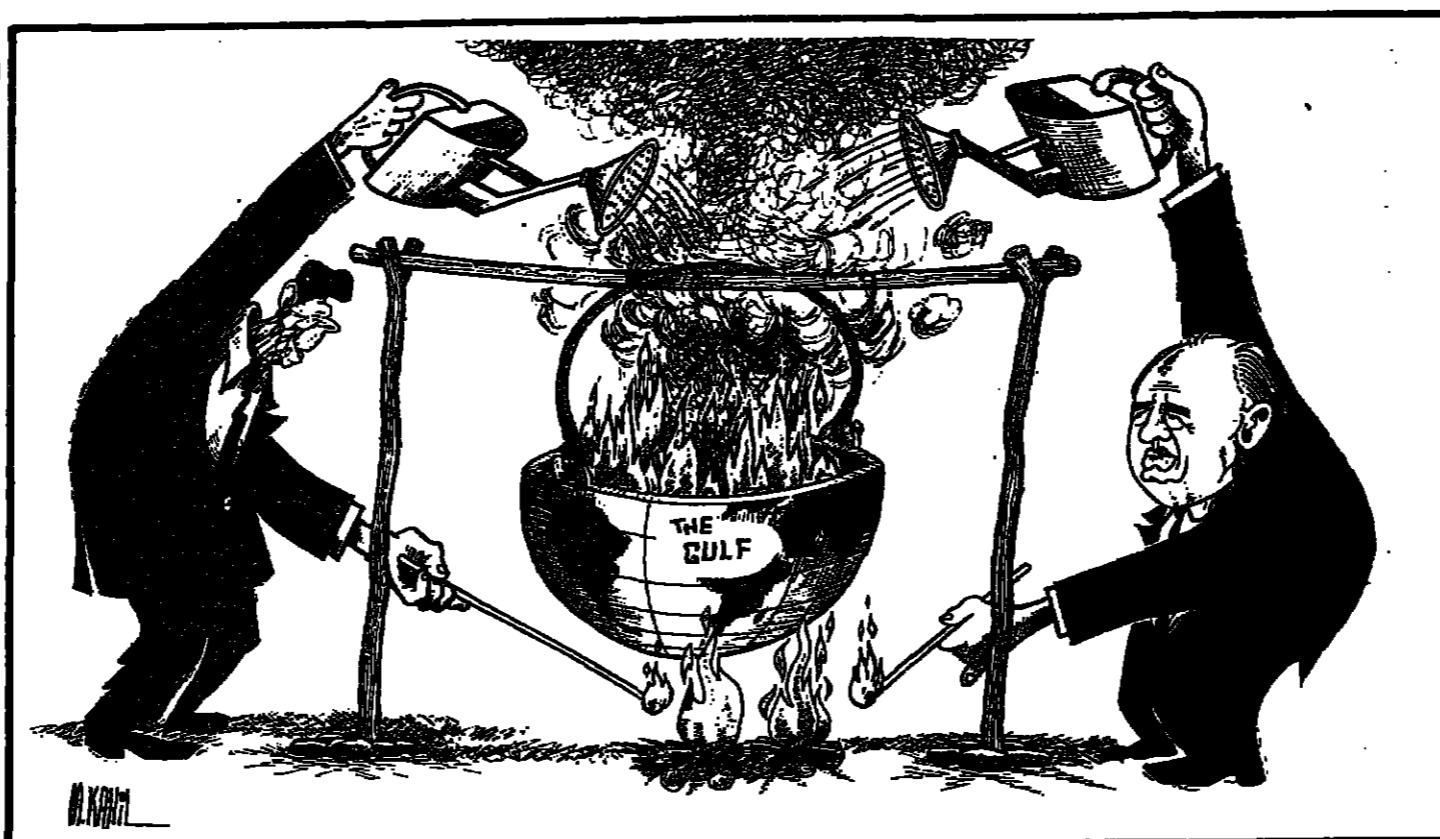
ISRAEL'S Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz both made statements lately concerning their own concepts of peace and an international conference. Rabin, for his part, said that Israel should make a limited withdrawal of forces from Arab land occupied since 1967 but these forces should never give up the city of Jerusalem. Shultz for his part, ignored the question of withdrawal and only made mention of the so-called direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. He also made it clear that Washington would never take any step leading to the international conference before Israel had taken such a step, and that the U.S. would never contemplate such conference unless Israel had first endorsed it. Shultz did not refer to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but said that the present two party coalition government in Israel should come to terms with regard to any peace negotiations. The United States had earlier announced that it regards the proposed conference as a mere ceremonial prelude leading to direct talks between the Israelis and the Arabs, and had explicitly showed its displeasure over the participation of the Soviet Union and European countries in such conference. What Israel and United States want and hope to achieve is a limited meeting in which they can impose their will on the Arabs. But an American-Israeli style of peace can never serve the purpose of stability, security and comprehensive peace that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Al Dustour: Calling on superpowers

SUPERPOWER vessels and war ships were exposed to danger in the Gulf region over the past two days in a manner that calls for steps to be taken by the two powers and the world community towards ending war activity in the Gulf. These events and the loss of life underline that the world should act now to stop the bloodshed and prevent the Gulf conflict from spreading and endangering world peace. It is not important to identify the attackers on Soviet or American shipping in the Gulf as much as it is important to find means for ending the tragedy that has been affecting the Arab region and the whole world. The two superpowers which shoulder grave responsibility in maintaining world peace have both been disregarding the sufferings of the people in the Gulf region and have allowed the Iran-Iraq war to drag on for nearly seven years without undertaking serious measures to stop it. The serious events in the Gulf call for speedy action on the part of these superpowers and the whole international community to find a solution for the war and an end to the bloodshed. Their primary task should force Iran to stop its aggression on Arab land and end its threat to world peace and international shipping. The events of the past two days present a good chance for the world community to start taking serious steps for bringing peace to the Gulf.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fuelling a war

WE wonder what the United States would do now following the attack on its frigate in the Gulf waters. Would it send in more war ships to deter future attacks and so openly interfere in the war or would it take steps towards peace? We wonder what the Soviet Union would do after the attack on one of its vessels in the same area. We also wonder if Iran harbours plans for drawing the superpowers into the web of the conflict. Is what happening now connected in one way or another with the recent tour of the region by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, and would the series of events lead towards a catastrophe for the whole Arab region? Iran for its part has been bent on implementing a policy preventing anybody from stopping the war because its rulers continue to benefit from the status quo. For this reason, Tehran continues a drive to expand the war. The superpowers for their part have not yet taken meaningful steps leading to an end to hostilities in the Gulf.



Learning from experience

At a cafe sat some 'intellectuals'; the subject of discussion was elections.

By Salim T. Abdo

AT a street-side cafe in Amman on Sunday evening sat several Jordanian "intellectuals" and parliamentary "hopefuls". Their subject of discussion was the voter registration process which had just ended that same evening. The discussion, which lasted well into Monday morning's *shour* hour, did not follow any particular pattern. It was overheard to go on something like this:

"Did you hear, there are rumours that the Ministry of Interior is thinking of asking all those who registered for voting to come back to their registration centres with two photographs in order to be issued 'voter registration cards'? Nobody can vote without these VR-ID's, they say. It is crazy. Not half of the registered citizens will bother to go back. There's no way some of them can afford it. Besides not all citizens even know where their names have been registered."

"You are totally right. The government cannot be serious about this. Not only because a large percentage of eligible voters do not actually know where their names have been registered, or because they would rather buy rice and sugar for their families with the cost of taking photographs and travelling back — or for the first time — to their registration centres, but because the logical alternative is there. Like they did in the parliamentary by-elections in 1984: Each registered voter, upon reporting to his centre of registration on election day, can present his ID and vote, if his or her name is on the lists."

"Actually I talked to the minister about this today. The government still has not made up its mind about the issue. And I don't think it's serious this business about 'voter registration' ID's. Such a project is so difficult if not impossible to carry out."

"I wish I could believe you on this. The record speaks for itself. Look at the other mistakes that have been made in the context of the registration process. Look at the flaws in the new electoral law of 1986. Even the government itself complains of that loophole whereby many Amman residents registered their names — or their names were registered for them — in other districts of the Kingdom. This is cheating — to register away from your place of work or residence — some ministers have said. Whose fault is it that we now have the weirdest patterns of voter registration in the whole world? Why couldn't the Civil Registration Department do its job of producing voter lists in precincts and save everybody the trouble of having to register in the first place, as if you did not exist before?"

"Not all government departments have computers, you know! The government has its priorities in computerisation. But you are definitely right. We still are so far off from the sophisticated electoral machine that other countries have and that we badly need. I mean, this being the first impending general polls in 20 years, people have forgotten how to prepare for elections, or what? What is wrong is wrong. There should have been better organisation."

"Nothing wrong, doctor, except that twenty, thirty years ago these chieftains swore allegiance to the political candidates. Very few of them would contest parliamentary seats with political leaders like Suleiman Nabulsi, Abdul Rahman Shqair and Abdul Halim Nimir. Jordan itself seems to have changed. That's all."

"We will have to wait and see what happens with those. It is too early to even say whether we will have elections this year. Now tell us what jokes the Egyptians cracked about their elections. I have not heard one about ours."

"We are not in elections yet, remember!"

U.S. ships ordered to shoot back

(Continued from page 1)

scheduled budget hearing that two U.S.-supplied Saudi Arabian F-15 jets were scrambled by the air when the Iraqi jets were first spotted on Sunday by a Saudi AWACS (airborne warning and control system) plane manned by Americans.

Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska said he understood the AWACS asked the Stark highlighted the need to end the Gulf war but pledged to continue selling arms to Iraq.

Mr. Weinberger said that was contrary to his information. He said the F-15 pilots requested permission to approach the Iraqi planes, but Saudi ground controllers refused because the Iraqi jets did not appear to be threatening.

"That seems reasonable to us," Mr. Weinberger said. "This happens a number of times every day."

U.S. officials said the Stark's captain, Commander Glenn Brindel, may have been caught by surprise by an unexpected attack from planes of a friendly nation.

Mr. Weinberger said Commander Brindel had reported "all weapons operational" on Sunday morning before the attack.

There was explanation why the ship's rapid-fire "Phalanx" gun — capable of putting up a 3,000-rounds-a-minute curtain of anti-missile fire — had not been activated during the killer rocket's flight of up to 80 seconds.

Mr. Weinberger on Monday disputed an explanation from the Iraqi ambassador to the United States, Nizar Hamdoon. The envoy said Iraqi warplanes had targeted a suspected Iranian ship 20 nautical miles from the Stark.

"I think he was aiming at that ship," Mr. Weinberger told the

ABC television network. "I think the real situation is he did not know it was an American ship. And that's why, as I've called it, it was a ghastly error on his part."

Iraqi warplanes hit another ship in the 40 to 60 nautical miles from the Stark earlier in the day and missed another one in roughly that same area. Mr. Weinberger said.

France said Sunday's attack on the Stark highlighted the need to end the Gulf war but pledged to continue selling arms to Iraq.

"This drama shows that it is imperative to try to put an end to the war between Iran and Iraq, which is an absurd war," Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond said.

The frigate Stark was hit in the berthing area by a French-built Exocet missile, supplied by France.

Describing the attack as an error, Mr. Raimond said it would not alter France's policy of selling arms to Iraq, which has been at war with Iran for more than six years.

"Everyone knows that France has provided Iraq with military aid for a number of years. It will continue to do so normally in execution of its contracts with this country at war," he said in a radio interview.

In Moscow, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman called for a negotiated end to the Iran-Iraq war and a reduction in the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf after the "tragic event" on Sunday.

"The (Arab) Gulf is so to say a concentration of all the difficulties brought about by military tensions and hostilities," spokesman Boris Pyadyshev told reporters at a briefing. "This is proved by the mishap with the Soviet tanker and by the tragic event

that happened to the American naval ship as a result of which dozens of lives were lost."

The attack was the deadliest in the Gulf since Iran and Iraq went to war in September 1980 and began attacking commercial ships in an effort to cripple each other's economies.

The Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France have warships patrolling the Gulf to protect their merchant vessels.

The Stark had been on patrol to protect U.S. merchant vessels in the Gulf region.

The Soviet tanker Marshal Chukov, on its first trip to the Gulf under a lease agreement with Kuwait, struck a mine on Sunday and sustained damage to its bow. No casualties have been reported in that accident.

"We are for an immediate cessation of hostilities," Pyadyshev said, repeating Kremlin call for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf conflict.

Asked if the Soviet Union and the United States might meanwhile cooperate to safeguard merchant shipping in the Gulf, through which much of the world's oil flows, Pyadyshev said:

"A first step towards this would be a sharp decline in U.S. military activity and presence in the area, renunciation of support for those quarters that pursue aggression and real interest by the U.S. leadership in cooperation."

TASS news agency said U.S. naval patrols in the Gulf were an increasing menace to the whole Middle East region.

It also accused Washington of keeping the nearly seven-year Gulf war alive, in part through secret arms shipments to Iran, to satisfy its own strategic interests.

In an interview published Tues-

day, Mr. Reagan reaffirmed his commitment to ending the Iran-Iraq war and to halting the sale of arms to either nation. The interview with the independent Kuwait newspaper Al Qabas was conducted in Washington on May 12.

Mr. Reagan said the United States, which is officially neutral in the seven-year war, is working with other countries who "want to see this long, costly, destabilizing and tragic war brought to a negotiated end in the quickest time possible," the paper said.

"... continue to work for a settlement that will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq," Mr. Reagan was quoted as saying.

"I have urged the international community, in the appropriate forums and through the appropriate mechanisms, to work for an immediate cease-fire, negotiations and withdrawal to borders."

The president was quoted as saying he would strongly support "effective action" by the United Nations in ending the war, but he did not elaborate.

According to the report, Mr. Reagan said Iran was the instigating party in the conflict, occupying Iraqi territory and trying to take more.

British defence chiefs have urgently reviewed manoeuvres of two frigates stationed in the Gulf following Sunday's attack, a ministry of defence spokesman said Today.

The spokesman said they believed the Iraqi attack was a mistake.

Egypt, with close links to both Iraq and the United States, has deployed the missile attack as a possible threat to freedom of navigation in the waterway.

West Germans unwilling to be counted in census

By Richard Williams
Reuter

BONN — A large number of West Germans, belying the national reputation for orderliness, seem unwilling to be counted in a controversial census planned for this month.

It will be the first census in West Germany since 1970, and follows seven years of legal and procedural battles.

Slogans calling on citizens to boycott the survey have appeared throughout the country, a leading magazine has explained how to avoid the census-taker and the headquarters of the Greens Party in Bonn has been raided to seize anti-census leaflets.

"Only sheep let themselves be counted," read the headlines of the leaflets, which were seized on the orders of the city's public prosecutor last month.

In the central city of Kassel, police discovered 1,000 forged census forms, which they believe could have been part of a plan to sabotage the census. In another town arsonists burnt down an office used by census officials.

The government, seeking to encourage public participation in the census on May 25, is spending 30 million marks (\$16.75 million) on the largest state-funded publicity campaign in West German history with nightly television advertising, posters, and leaflets.

"Census '87 — 10 minutes that can help us all," reads one poster. "Help us to help the chances of your children."

A government-commissioned opinion poll showed that up to seven per cent of the population would probably boycott the census despite of risking fines of up to 10,000 marks (\$5,590) from their local authorities, who can fill in the forms for those who have not registered.

The head of the federal statistics office, Egon Hoelder, dismisses such fears, pointing out that people freely supply information to other public authorities.

"Why the census, why not the tax office or the health authorities?" he said.

The Greens, the Communist Party and other groups opposed to the census have urged people to disrupt the poll, saying that if five per cent of the population were mistrustful of the use to which it could be put.

The survey showed three per cent of the 900 people questioned in the poll would definitely refuse to participate.

The government and the federal statistics office both say the census is necessary for social and economic planning, and even to find out exactly how many West Germans there actually are. Estimates put the population at more than 60 million...

Officials say it is especially important as two previous attempts to hold a such a survey

LETTERS

Mind your smoke

To the Editor:

RECENTLY I have had reason to travel a number of times to Syria by JETT bus and each time have been seriously bothered by the cigarette smoke of fellow passengers (always male). I should perhaps say here that I am at present a non-smoker, but have been a smoker for many years and will no doubt be one again. But in a confined space of a bus or a car, or even an aeroplane where it is impossible to escape the smoke, I have never lit a cigarette.

In the West we are making tremendous efforts to preserve the rights of the non-smoker to breathe fresh air, without infringing upon the rights of the smoker to smoke. The conclusion is almost always that smoking has to be prohibited in confined public spaces where it is impossible not to contaminate other people's air, and to designate specific smoking areas in larger public places. It is extremely thoughtless and selfish in a public transport bus, where the windows do not open, to puff wreaths of smoke into the faces of other travellers. Either the JETT bus service should prohibit smoking altogether in their vehicles or require smokers to confine themselves to the rear of the bus where the exhaust fan is located. It would be extremely simple to ask passengers when they purchase their tickets whether they require the smoking or non-smoking section, just as the airlines do. Not to react is to have total disdain or disregard for the rights of non-smoking passengers.

Jordanians are so incredibly polite and no one has ever started to eat on the bus without asking me first if I wished to share their meal. I do wish that this courtesy could be extended to asking me if their smoking disturbed me.

Jennifer Dierckx de Casterle
Amman

'None of your business'

To the Editor:

OVER the telephone, I asked: "What is the procedure I must take to bring a Sudanese housekeeper?"

At the other end of the line, a gentleman at the Ministry of Interior answered: "They are not allowed to come to the country."

Having a housekeeper from Sudan myself for one year, and knowing that they were to come and work here, I asked, "Since when?"

Myrdal influenced Third World

STOCKHOLM — Gunnar Myrdal, the Nobel Prize-winning Swedish economist and sociologist who died May 17 at the age of 88, left a deep mark on the history of race relations in America, the postwar development of the Third World and the birth of the welfare state in his native Sweden.

Myrdal, joint winner of the 1974 Nobel Economics Prize, began as a passionate believer in the possibilities of improving the human condition through social reform, but reality finally left him disillusioned.

"We grew towards the end of our life not having changed our basic ideals, but looking on the world as really going to hell in every possible respect," he said, speaking of himself and his late wife Alva, a joint winner of the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize.

International recognition came to Myrdal in 1944 when he published "An American Dilemma", a highly critical study of the conditions facing blacks in the United States, which soon became a standard work.

But he had first made his mark in a book written with his wife 10 years earlier, "Crisis in the Population Issue", in which they advanced revolutionary ideas about how to stem the decline in Sweden's birthrate.

As a result Myrdal was chosen to head a government commission on Sweden's population crisis, one of the many roles in which he helped shape modern Swedish society.

In old age, however, he came to repudiate the system he had helped to build and drew unfavourable comparisons between the politics of the present and those of the 1930s.

Karl Gunnar Myrdal was born on December 6, 1898, in the village of Skattungbyn, the son of a carpenter.

The formative influence on his early education came from the philosophers who inspired the French revolution.

"The (French 18th century) enlightenment philosophy was fundamentally optimistic — bad things did not come from nature, human beings were good and we could improve conditions through reforms," he told The Times of London.

Myrdal studied law at Stockholm University. On graduating in 1927, he studied abroad before returning to Sweden to lecture on political economy.

In 1935 he entered parliament as a Social Democratic deputy. He spent most of World War II in the United States, writing "an American dilemma", but returned in 1944.

After the war Myrdal was appointed minister of commerce. He was forced to impose drastic import restrictions and rationing because of a domestic currency crisis in 1947, but he always rejected charges that his policies had caused the upheaval, blaming it on his cabinet colleagues.

Later in the year he resigned from the government to become executive secretary of the United Nations' population commission, one of the many roles in which he helped shape modern Swedish society.

A great review of the dead

By Liu Haixiang

A recent exhibition of calligraphy and painting by China's contemporary late masters in Peking provides a chance for a great review of 109 deceased artists. A thorough study of them will be positive to the advancement of China's art in modern times. The peak of success reached by Chinese artists in this century is reflected in their 223 works on display.

SOME artists' careers show kick-off promise at an early age while others, such as Huang Qiyuan, are acclaimed only after they die. A master of traditional Chinese painting, especially good at mountains-and-water painting, Huang spent a lifetime as a poor, unknown artist.

In the spring of 1986, Huang's posthumous exhibit of scrolls of painting attracted wide attention from artists, critics and the viewing public. His paintings have been collected by China's National Art Gallery, and he has been described as "a lost pearl."

Again this spring, Huang along with 108 other established painters and calligraphers who died since the founding of New China in 1949, have drawn admiration from spectators. An exhibition of Calligraphy and Painting by China's Contemporary Late Masters has been held in the Painting Museum in Peking's Forbidden City. Displayed are 223 representative works, most of which haven't been published, or shown before.

One of Huang Qiyuan's is a tableau, "Stony Mountain and Ragged Trees." On top of the precipice of a towering mountain are somber trees whispering into milky clouds. At the foot of the mountain, weather-beaten huts crouch beside a tumbling stream. The sense of undisturbed emptiness is intensified by black ink dots and brush lines covering the entire painting.

The wonder of painting lies between likeness and unlikeness with the object," Qi had said over and over again, an idea that has since become the doctrine of many contemporary Chinese painters. "Too much likeness may result in vulgarity; too much unlikeness may be cheating the viewer."

Li Keran, 80, one of Qi's former disciples who is also an advisor of the exhibition, says, "The semi-transparent shrimps and crabs Qi Baishi painted seem to be more lively than living ones. His keen observation brought about the simplicity and order of the picture."

Qi Baishi was born in 1861 of a poor family in Xiangtan county, Hunan province. He was a carpenter when young, without formal schooling. Through his own tenacious efforts, he acquired a profound knowledge of

the world. When he died, at the age of 96, Qi left a rich legacy in the arts, best incorporated in the flowers and birds he painted. They were the symbol of the painter's inner longings for a peaceful natural life.

Qi was a hard-working painter. To avoid meaningless interruptions and time-killing social activities, he once posted an announcement on his door: "Qi Baishi is dead!"

Very much alive, he said in reviewing his art career, "I do best in poetry, seal-engraving the second, calligraphy the third and painting the fourth." Chinese art critics say that every item on the paper — painting, calligraphy and seal — becomes an inseparable part of Qi's masterpieces. According to the usual practice of Chinese painters, Qi wrote some lines of poetry and affixed his seal to his painting.

Nearly all the other artists enjoyed glorious fame when they were alive, extending on beyond their deaths. Their names have become as eternal as their art.

Qi Baishi (1861-1957), the doyen of Chinese painters in this century, is usually first in any review of China's fine arts of this period. The organisers of this exhibition chose seven of Qi's paintings for display.

Qi Baishi is an undisputed expert of flower-and-bird painting, another distinguished division of traditional Chinese painting. A viewer standing in front of Qi's "Chickens under a Bajiao Banana," can almost hear the lovely cackling barnyard fowl, and hardly resist the temptation to touch them. The artist is best-known for his Chinese ink and wash representation of shrimp.

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"Stony Mountain and Ragged Trees" by Huang Qiyuan shows the strength and vigour of traditional Chinese painting.

descriptions of the ancient political and strategic. With his long beard hanging down over his red robe, squatting at something ahead, Cao appears to be planning another major operation.

Besides painting, calligraphy also shares the spotlight at the exhibit. As a basic requirement for Chinese scholars, and unique in its importance in the culture, China's calligraphy can be traced back to the Shang Dynasty (16th-11th century B.C.) from inscriptions found on bones and tortoise shells. During the years, many masters have made their individual contributions to this Oriental art.

One of Jiang's contemporaries, Xu Beihong (Ju Peon, 1895-1953) had complained of the lack of figures and people's activities in Chinese painting. Jiang answered that complaint with "A Portrait of Refugees," a gigantic painting two metres high and 27 metres wide, portraying the different images of around 100 refugees. Painted in the 40s, the picture depicts the suffering of Chinese people under the Japanese invasion.

On display in the exhibition is Jiang's large portrait of Cao Cao, king of Wei during the Period of Three Kingdoms (220-265). The painter drew a vivid and lively portrayal, according to historical

records. One of them represented in the show is Guo Moruo (1892-1978). A versatile scholar who had a rare talent, he was born in a small town near the Yangtze river in Sichuan province. Such a setting must have influenced Guo, who received education in an old-style private school. Just as the Yangtze grows from tiny streams in its upper reaches into China's longest river, Chinese culture has developed through 5,000 years to contemporary appreciation of the arts.

Though these artist are no longer living, their works have survived to be part of China's treasury of art. Their names, together with their creative work, will be remembered in history — China feature.

Show organiser Li Cao told reporters: "The exhibition sponsored by the Ministry of Culture roughly shows the course of development and the progress these Chinese artists have reached. A thorough study of them will be positive to the advancement of our art in the future."

In Guo's later years, he became a writer, poet, historian, dramatist and anthropologist. Like other noted men of learning, he wrote a good hand. Guo's hand-writing

is important. Cuts in the upper reaches have been proportionately as severe as in the rest of the service. That means fewer promotion prospects, and longer waits for the next hike.

In addition, in departments such as transport, energy and industry, privatisation programmes have taken away chunks of responsibility, particularly from those in policy areas.

Privatisation has also proved a channel for outside jobs. Several senior civil servants have come into contact with the City in this way, and been offered jobs. Others have taken high level jobs in the very industries they helped to privatise.

Traditionally, the ministry of defence lost the highest numbers in the civil service to companies with which they had frequent contact.

— Financial Times feature.

U.K. civil servants find greener pastures

Britain under Margaret Thatcher has been pursuing privatisation. One of the unforeseen side-effects of this course is that civil servants are quitting in a steady trickle to earn more money in the very industries they helped to privatisate. Hazel Duffy reports.

LONDON — "Better prospects, better pay," are the reasons why Mr. Zaki Douek has left the British government's Department of Transport for the private sector. A few weeks ago, he was managing the privatisation of the National Bus Company. Now he is working for another former civil servant, Mr. Michael Casey, founder of a public affairs consultancy which has been absorbed by the Saatchi and Saatchi advertising copy group.

Mr. Douek's knowledge of the government machine and negotiating experience will be vital in the job he is taking. Many other former civil servants, working in the City in particular, have found employers who value their

get outside, the amounts of money that the government is talking about seem to be much too small," says one senior civil servant.

From October 1, discretionary increments for staff in the two grades immediately below permanent secretary will become operational, following recommendations last year by the Top Salaries Review Body.

The top salary for grade 2 — taking into account the increase for this year — will be £45,000 (\$75,980). Civil servants will be eligible for three incremental bands, to be awarded on performance criteria, which could take them to a maximum of £54,000. Grade 3 civil servants, whose maximum is £36,000, could go up to £43,000.

Assessment of the individual's performance will be strict, in accordance with agreed guide-

lines. The extra money is "for the best performers in recognition of sustained high performance," said Mrs. Thatcher. Sceptics suspect that having qualified for the first increment, it will be well nigh impossible to get another.

A performance-related scheme for grades 4 to 7 is also to be drawn up. These are grades where morale is described as "pretty low." The government has said the scheme will take into account experience with the performance bonus experiment — an experiment deemed largely by those involved as divisive and inadequate.

As an interim measure while the scheme is being worked out, a performance increment for grade 5 employees, who have been on their scale maximum for at least a year, is proposed.

Pay is one factor. Prospects — or lack of them — are just as

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC

A North American bat may eat as many as 600 mosquitoes in one evening hour.

Every year some 100 people hike the entire 2,100 miles of the Appalachian Trail, taking from four to six months.

Iceland had lush meadowlands dotted with stands of birch and mountain ash when Norse settlers began arriving, but, in little over 1,000 years, man and sheep have destroyed virtually all of the country's forests.

Drawings by Spike Walker
© National Geographic Society

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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French title-holders beaten in first tie

DUESSELDORF (R) — Defending champions France were beaten by Argentina in their opening tie at the \$750,000 World Team Tennis Cup on Tuesday.

In the day's other tie Australia were also unable to match their epic feat in winning last year's Davis Cup as they fell to Czechoslovakia.

France got off to a bad start when Thierry Tulasne lost 7-6, 6-2 to Argentina's veteran clay court expert Guillermo Vilas.

But worse was to come when Henri Leconte, who enjoys folk hero status at Dusseldorf's Rochus Club where the crowd adores his swashbuckling style and his clowning, lost 7-6, 7-6 to Martin Jaite.

Leconte, who has an impressive record in the annual eight-nation event, has only just returned to the circuit after a bad back injury and was rarely able to find his rhythm.

He held three set points in the first set at 6-5 when Jaite was 0-40 down on service but three mistakes cost him his chance and Jaite went on to take the tiebreak.

Dundee poised to make history

DUNDEE, Scotland (AP) — Dundee United bids to become the first Scottish team to lift the UEFA Cup when it takes on IFK Gothenburg of Sweden Wednesday night in the decisive second leg of the final.

Trailing 0-1 from the first game two weeks ago, Dundee goes into the decider still reeling from an upset defeat in last Saturday's Scottish cup final but fully aware that it may never have a better chance of winning one of Europe's three major club soccer tournaments.

"This is our last chance go," captain David Narey, whose side has knocked out Barcelona and Borussia Moenchengladbach on its way to surprise place in the final.

"Saturday's defeat (by St. Mirren) was a major disappointment but it is not the end of the world. The result will be completely forgotten by the time we run out to play Gothenburg."

"This is a European Final, the chance of a lifetime, and if that cannot stimulate us, nothing can."

United looked jaded and disjointed against St. Mirren, and fatigue could be its biggest problem against Gothenburg.

A goal behind, the Scots will be forced to attack from the start in an effort to overturn the deficit and, at the same time, prevent the Swedes from scoring.

But Narey is confident that the capacity 25,000 crowd at United's cramped, atmospheric tannadice

7-5. Jaite also got the best of a second set tiebreaker 7-2 to settle the tie before the doubles.

France must now win both their ties with the United States and Spain in the red group to have a chance of reaching Sunday's final.

Australia's Davis Cup hero Pat Cash had never met Miloslav Mecir, the "Big Cat" from Czechoslovakia since they were juniors and he found the world number five's unusual style difficult to handle on clay, a surface Cash does not favour.

Mecir won 6-4, 7-6 after saving six set points in the second set but made too many errors himself to be happy with his game.

"I just don't have my best feeling for the ball on clay at the moment," he said. "I haven't played much on clay this year. If I play like this I won't have much chance at the French Open."

Lendl seeded number one in French Open

PARIS (AP) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl will be top seed in the French Open Tennis Tournament May 25-June 7, the organisers have said.

The top 16 seeds are established by their placement in the most recent rankings of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

The Czechoslovakian-born Lendl, now living in Connecticut, took the title last year, defeating Mikael Pernfors of Sweden in three sets in the final. Pernfors, unseeded last year, is now 13th.

Lendl has won one tournament this year. Last week he lost in the third round of the Italian Open, where he was also defending champion, to Joakim Nystrom of Sweden.

Injuries have not helped Dundee United's cause.

Already without striker Billy Kirkwood, influential midfielder Eamonn Bannon was fighting Tuesday to recover from a groin injury sustained against St. Mirren.

Gothenburg should be at full strength, with the return of Roland Nilsson at right midfield, replacing Magnus Johansson, who started in the first leg.

Nilsson has recovered from an operation on his right knee and from an infection that developed after the surgery four months ago.

Wednesday's game will be Dundee United's 60th of a grueling season and McLean, a strict disciplinarian, has had the awkward task of coaxing his players into the right frame despite his displeasure at Saturday's cup defeat.

"Several players fell well short of the standard we expect," he said. "But now is not the time to lambast them. The players are still clearly shattered. But we must simply lift ourselves for this last game."

Lendl... will be still reign!

Boris Becker of West Germany is seeded second. The two-time Wimbledon champion has yet to win a clay court tournament.

The French Open takes place on the red, clay courts of Paris's Roland Garros Stadium.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the two-time Australian Open champion, is number 3 and another Swede, Mats Wilander, is number 4.

Wilander is fresh from two clay court victories at the Monte Carlo and Italian Opens and appears to be the favourite.

"We must win at all costs," Bulgarian team manager Khristo Mladenov said.

"The Bulgarians are clear favourites, but I think we performed well at home and we shall try for a draw here," Luxembourg manager Philipp Paul said.

"Even winning one point would be a tremendous boost to our morale."

Mladenov said he would make few or no changes from the team which played in Luxembourg and would again rely on the scoring touch of midfielders Nasko Sirakov, Lachezar Tanev and Kristo Kolev backed by a reliable defence organised by Georgi Dimitrov of St. Etienne.

On the Luxembourg side Paul Can hope that midfielder Robby Langers will repeat his spectacular feat in Luxembourg when he scored with a powerful shot from near the halfway line to surprise an otherwise reliable Borislav Mikhailov in goal.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion market on Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6785/95	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3390/95	Canadian dollar
	1.7820/30	West German marks
	2.0087/97	Dutch guilders
	1.4620/30	Swiss francs
	36.91/94	Belgian francs
	5.9525/75	French francs
	1291/1292	Italian lire
	140.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.2380/2400	Swedish crown
	6.6130/6200	Norwegian crowns
	6.6975/7025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	470.70/471.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices improved on midsession values in late trading but lacked any incentive for further gains in an atmosphere dominated by political considerations following the publication of the Conservative and Labour Party manifestos. At 1413 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 22.1 points up at 2,216.2, having touched a record high of 2,216.6 earlier.

Dealers said Tuesday's gains reflected a substantial injection of foreign funds. This was based initially on sterling's strength and backed up by continuing signs of improved U.K. corporate profitability, highlighted by improved dividend payments.

Tuesday's gains, which pushed the FTSE 100 share index further into record territory, also reflect expectations of a workable majority for the Conservative Party in the June 11 general election. Dealers said the advance was encouraging in the absence of definitive fresh news.

There was little reaction to a poll in the Today newspaper showing a narrowing of the Tory lead. It gave the Tories 41 per cent of the vote, Labour 33 per cent and the centrist alliance 24 per cent. A previous poll, for Marpian in the Guardian, gave the Tories 43 per cent, Labour 29 per cent and the Alliance 24 per cent.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Analyze what your most imaginative and idealistic concepts are and then decide the best means to put them on a practical level. Tune into what is best for you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A quiet meeting with an expert who comprehends your wants can bring you advancement in the right way.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Both a good friend and an outsider can assist you now. Try to get your personal affairs working better.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you work more efficiently you can add appreciably to your present benefits. Use your fine personality.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have a fine talent which can be made to operate best with the assistance of an expert.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan what is best to do so that your mate will not worry about security. Get an early start on business affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take an associate out to lunch and come to a better understanding. Put your ideas into operation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your environment and know what it will cost to make it more to your liking. Enjoy more happiness tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can enjoy the type of recreation that most pleases you. Your mate has good ideas, so go along with them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today is very good for having guests come into your home. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

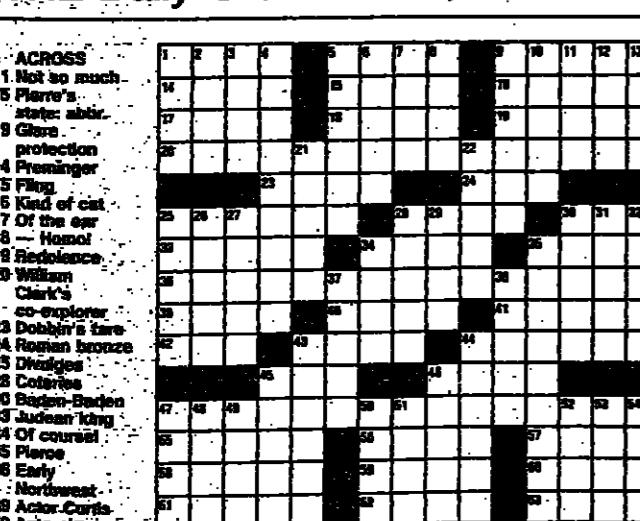
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It's a good day to solve any affairs with regular contacts, friends or relatives. Keep things running evenly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get advice from an expert so that you will know how to have a greater abundance from your activities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 19) Find new avenues of expression that can increase your happiness. New friends can help you advance now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have a fine understanding of life in general. One who could do very well in business or in artistic endeavors since there is the ability to handle details as well as the main thrust of the project at hand. This one will also understand others.

THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	SIAM	GRAPES	SIAM	
2	TAPE	PIVOT	PIVOT	
3	ALB	TYST	ABED	
4	SOIAH	DOE	RENE	
5	ANIMONE	SEVER	ELAND	MISTER
6	ELAND	ATIME	STAR	ATIME
7	HELIOT	HILL	TEL	HILL
8	BENO	AERY	BRON	AERY
9	TIBER	SHARD	SHARD	SHARD
10	SHRED	SNARE	SHRED	SNARE
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Fiji still restless after coup leader caves in

SUVA (R) — Fiji's governor-general claimed Tuesday to have taken control of the country from rebels who seized power in a coup five days ago, but armed troops continued to patrol the streets as small disturbances broke out in the capital.

Governor-General Ratu Sir Penia Ganilau said in a radio statement he had reversed his decision to swear in an army-backed rebel group as a caretaker government and that Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, who led Thursday's bloodless coup, had agreed to surrender authority to him.

There was no public confirmation from Col. Rabuka and for the first time since the coup gunfire was heard in Suva as troops fired shots over the heads of protesters.

There were no reported injuries among protesters, who were fired on as they demanded the release of deposed Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra. Dr. Bavadra has been held since he was abducted from parliament at gunpoint.

On Sunday, Ganilau swore Col. Rabuka in as chairman of the council in a secret ceremony. The coup leader told reporters that though Ganilau considered his government illegal, he had agreed to the swearing in to preserve law and order.

In his surprise radio broadcast Tuesday, however, Ganilau said he had refused to swear in Col. Rabuka's council of ministers because the "military regime" was illegal.

Ganilau said he would announce his own panel of advisers Wednesday to help manage the country. He said he would dissolve parlia-

Fijians set upon a taxi carrying an Australian reporter and dragged the Indian driver onto the road.

The army dispersed the mob, preventing serious injuries.

One senior rebel officer, who did not wish to be named, told Reuters: "We will not recall our men to barracks until the governor-general sets up or announces a caretaker government."

"We don't want to be caught off-guard, with our pants down. If we surrender now we will leave ourselves vulnerable. At least together we are a united force and can offer strong resistance."

Most Indian-owned shops remained closed Tuesday behind storm-shutters and children were sent home from schools.

Banks reopened after being ordered to close on Monday and were inundated with anxious customers wanting to withdraw cash.

New Zealand quietly welcomed Tuesday the announcement by Fiji's governor-general that he now controls the nation and pledged full support for his efforts to restore democracy.

"I support the governor-general's appeal for calm and for the army to return to the barracks," Prime Minister David Lange said in brief statement.

Since the coup, the governor-general has been in regular contact with Fiji's head of state, Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

Sources close to Ganilau said the queen told him on Friday to give the coup leaders a 90-hour ultimatum.

Fiji Chief Justice Sir Timoci Tuivaga said the judiciary had never doubted Ganilau's integrity. He had avoided "a calamity," Tuivaga said.

Ganilau's broadcast did little to quell unrest — the army had to break-up a riot in central Suva's Sukuna Park when a mob of

Chinese fail to keep forest fires apart

PEKING (R) — Firefighters lost their battle Tuesday to keep apart two massive forest fires in China's remote north east, where 191 people have been killed and 50,000 left homeless since the blazes began two weeks ago.

China's national radio said the east and west fire zones of Dazhanggong close to the Soviet border had swept through virgin forest to merge into one, despite firefighting efforts by 37,000 troops, firemen and civilian volunteers.

Officials had hoped to bring the fires under control by Wednesday, reports on Sunday said.

Earlier reports Tuesday said new fires had erupted but thick smoke meant aircraft had been unable to get close enough to determine their extent.

More than 500,000 hectares (1,235,000 acres) of China's largest natural forest has been affected by the blaze and two entire towns in Mobe county engulfed by the flames.

At least 221 have been seriously injured, official reports said. Some 230,000 yuan (\$62,000) of first aid supplies has been donated to the area by Red Cross organisations in other countries, national radio said Tuesday.

Early official reports said China's worst fire since 1949 had been started by a bushcutting machine on May 5 but later reports said the cause was not known.

The prime minister added without elaboration that an air force Hercules aircraft and "appropriate personnel remain in a state of preparedness in case the situation in Fiji warrants it."

New Zealand jumbo crew overpower Fijian hijacker

WELLINGTON (R) — An airport worker held an Air New Zealand jumbo jet for almost seven hours in Fiji Tuesday before being overpowered by the flight crew, the airline said.

New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange put the army's crack commando squad on alert after the seizure and said the frigate Wellington, now in Suva, was ready to sail to Lautoka, near Nadi Airport, on the west of the island.

The hijacker had claimed to have explosives strapped to his body.

He allowed the 105 passengers and the 21 members of the cabin crew to leave the Boeing 747, which had been on a flight from Tokyo to Auckland. He kept the three-man flight crew on board and demanded he be flown out of Fiji.

The New Zealand Press Association said another demand was that the Fijian military release Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra who was detained in last Thursday's military coup.

Air New Zealand said the pilot, first officer and flight engineer overpowered and handcuffed the hijacker.

He was handed over to airport authorities.

Mr. Lange had identified the man as Ahmed Ali, 37.

Mr. Lange had responded to the seizure by putting the army's Special Air Services (SAS) unit on alert.

The 18 defendants appeared in

18 charged for treason in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Former First Vice President Francis Minah and 15 other defendants were charged Monday with treason, a death-penalty offence, in connection with a March 23 coup plot foiled by security agents.

Establishment of a truly democratic government created through free and fair elections could only help the country out of its problems," she said.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in March, 1982, rejected a previous opposi-

Peruvian police end strike after higher pay

LIMA (R) — Peruvian police have ended a four-day strike for higher pay saying the stoppage, which hospital sources said had cost at least one life, was successful.

Thousands of police waiting outside the Peruvian congress dispersed to report for duty after their leaders returned from a five-hour meeting at the presidential palace and said they had won an increase of more than 100 per cent in the basic minimum wage and other benefits.

Troops had stood guard over the strikers throughout the day, firing occasional bursts in the air from automatic rifles to maintain order.

Policemen had hoped to bring the fires under control by Wednesday, reports on Sunday said.

Earlier reports Tuesday said new fires had erupted but thick smoke meant aircraft had been unable to get close enough to determine their extent.

Hoping to quiet demands for early presidential elections, President Jose Sarney asked the National Assembly to ratify his term until 1990 to "consolidate Brazil's return to democracy."

The constitution under which Mr. Sarney was elected in 1985, written while the country was still under military rule, established a 6-year presidential term.

However, the National Assembly is rewriting the constitution and legislators are considering a possible 4- or 5-year presidential term.

Mr. Sarney said in a televised address Monday night that he was willing to step down in 1990.

Any mandate less than five years would not allow a complete

transition to democracy," said Mr. Sarney, Brazil's first civilian president after 21 years of military rule. "We need stability, not presidential elections now."

Mr. Sarney was elected vice president in March 1985 as the running mate of President Tancredo Neves. Mr. Neves was too ill to attend his inauguration and died within weeks, and was succeeded by Mr. Sarney.

Politicians, upset by 20 per cent monthly inflation levels and a faltering economy, have called in recent weeks for direct presidential elections next year. Mr. Neves and Mr. Sarney were selected by an Electoral College.

Mr. Sarney has said he will abide by whatever term the National Assembly allows him.

Seoul holds 400 on revolt anniversary

KWANGJU, South Korea (R) — South Korean police said Tuesday they were questioning nearly 400 people arrested during widespread anti-government protests at this traditionally restive town Monday, the anniversary of an armed civilian uprising seven years ago.

Life in the south-western city, however, appeared to quickly return to normal a day after violent street clashes between government and opposition forces.

On Monday, thousands of chanting demonstrators, including relatives of victims of the

Kwangju mutiny, students, workers and Christian and civil-rights activists, battled with riot police. They attacked the police with rocks, petrol bombs and other missiles.

Big forces of police retaliated with teargas to disperse the protesters, who demanded the resignation of President Chun Doo Hwan's government and the withdrawal of his April 13 decision to put off debate on constitutional reform until after he stood down next February.

Police said more than 20,000 students from 62 universities

staged anti-government demonstrations throughout the country Monday.

Dissidents have vowed to continue protest rallies in Kwangju at least until May 27, the day when the army, under then-General Chun, crushed the nine-day revolt with the loss of 193 lives by official count. Mr. Chun's opponents claim the figure was much higher.

Religious activists said photographs and video tapes of the rebellion would be displayed at a number of Christian centres in the city until the end of the anniversary week.

Opposition asks Ershad to hold new polls

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia has repeated a demand that President Hossain Mohammad Ershad transfer power to a caretaker government and hold elections.

Speaking to a meeting of her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) here Monday, she urged people to unite to overthrow his government if it did not step down soon.

"It has lost the right to rule because soaring food prices, rampant corruption, murders, kidnapping and other crimes over the past five years have almost crippled the society," she said.

Gen. Ershad ended martial law last November after he won a presidential election a month earlier. His Jatiya Party won an overwhelming majority in a May, 1986, parliamentary poll amid charges of widespread ballot rigging and muscle-flexing by the

pro-government activists. The BNP boycotted both elections.

Parliamentary opposition leader Sheikh Hasina told a rally of her Bangladesh Awami League in north Bangladesh Monday that "the ruling class has robbed the people of their social and economic rights."

Addressing a rally outside Dhaka last week, Gen. Ershad lashed out at opposition parties demanding the resignation of his government or criticising its policies. He called them "paper tigers."

"They are trying to halt our march towards progress. They are not friends of the people," he said.

There had been widespread speculation that former President Slobka Stevens was implicated in the plot, but President Joseph Saidi Momoh said no evidence had been found against his predecessor.

Momoh also told the Associated Press that at least one suspected coup plotter, Mohammad

Jaward, escaped prosecution because he is not in the country.

Jaward, a millionaire who had run the business empire of Afro-Libyan tycoon Jamil Said Mohammad, reportedly left three days before security agents quashed what they said was a plan to assassinate Momoh and replace him with Minah.

"There is every likelihood that if he (Jaward) were here he would have been charged," Momoh said.

Kidnapped Pakistani tycoon freed

KARACHI (R) — Bandits have freed a Pakistani businessman who was kidnapped on Friday in the south of the country, police said Tuesday. They said Saleem Dawood, a senior official in one of Pakistan's leading industrial groups, was freed in Sind province Monday and later brought to his home in the provincial capital Karachi. Provincial Police Chief Salman Khalid told reporters no ransom was paid. According to police, Dawood was kidnapped by four gunmen on Friday at his farm at Hassansar, 180 kilometres north east of Karachi.

Rare Bronte manuscripts to be published

SYDNEY (R) — Rare manuscripts written by British novelist Charlotte Bronte will be published the first time this week after eight years of exhaustive research by an Australian academic.

Christine Alexander, doctor of English at the University of New South Wales, said she found the manuscripts in private collections and libraries in the United States and Britain, including those at Princeton University, Harvard University and the British Library in London. Followers of the 19th-century author of Jane Eyre have been eagerly awaiting the results of Alexander's work, which includes more than 100 previously unpublished pieces of poetry and prose. Alexander told reporters she spent three years deciphering and editing the documents. In one instance she pieced together half of a story found in the United States with the other half from a British library. The two halves had been separated in a sale of manuscripts after Bronte's death in 1861.

Meanwhile, New York Governor Mario Cuomo, a hit in the presidential polls, said Monday that not only is he not a candidate, but he does not want to be considered a leading Democratic Party spokesman.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden and Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore are expected to join the field by summer.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden and Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore are expected to join the field by summer.

COLUMNS 7G8

Soviet entry wins 2 prizes at Cannes

CANNES, France (R) — Pokayaniye (Repentance), the Soviet entry at the Cannes Film Festival, was Tuesday named winner of the International Critics Prize and the Ecumenical Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival. The film, directed by Georgian filmmaker Tengiz Abuladze in dramatic and surrealistic style, was praised by the International Critics "for its striking visual dramatisation of a courageous and clear political analysis." The ecumenical jury, which awards films that further ecumenical and humanitarian themes, also commended the single African entry Yeleen by Mali director Souleymane Cisse, and a Danish film Babette's Feast by Gabriel Axel. The International Critics' jury also awarded prizes to two films outside the Cannes official competition. Noe En Galilee, a Belgian-French-Palestinian co-production directed by Michel Khleifi, was praised for "its profoundly human vision of the traditions and the conflicts of a people in a crisis." Wish You Were Here by British director David Leland was praised for freshness and humour in describing people in a specific social milieu.

Pregnant maids face stoning to death

MANILA (R) — The Philippines has appealed to the Kuwaiti government to repatriate four pregnant Filipinas, who could be stoned to death for sex outside wedlock, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has said. Alman Glang, Philippine ambassador to Kuwait, told reporters in Manila that the women, working as maids, had taken refuge at the Philippine embassy after running away from their employers, who refuse to admit paternity. Glang said the women could be sentenced to death by stoning under Islamic Law, which prohibit sex outside marriage. He said a Sri Lankan woman was imprisoned and stoned to death last year after she became pregnant by a driver.

Czechoslovak escapes to West Germany

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — A Czechoslovak man escaped across the border to West Germany in a plane he secretly built for himself, Bavarian police said Tuesday. The man, aged 39, took off Monday night from Domazlice in Czechoslovakia and landed an hour later, shortly before running out of petrol, near the Bavarian town of Roding, about 50 kilometres inside West Germany. Police said the man had sought political asylum. In a separate development Communist border troops caught two East Germans as they tried to flee across a checkpoint to West Berlin just hours after a similar incident at another crossing. The West Berlin sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Western travellers at the Berlin Wall's Staken Crossing witnessed the incident just before midnight Sunday. The sources said they had no other details. A young man made a dash to freedom Sunday afternoon through the Checkpoint Charlie crossing but fell and was grabbed by East German border guards about 15 metres before reaching West Berlin, witnesses said. West Berlin police, quoting numerous witnesses, said no shots were heard. Checkpoint Charlie is the most famous wall crossing between the two sectors of this divided, East-West city. After several escapes and escape attempts at Checkpoint Charlie, the East Germans put up sophisticated barriers that have made it more difficult to flee Berlin's Communist Sector.

29 jailed in Naples quake fraud

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Twenty-nine people were sentenced to eight months jail for making fraudulent applications for homes intended for victims of the 1980 Naples earthquake. The trial followed an examination of documents filed with applications for 28,000 homes built for families whose houses were destroyed in the disaster. The 29 were also fined 300,000 lire (\$250) each. Seven others on trial with them were acquitted for lack of evidence.

Mother acquitted of stealing son

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — A judge acquitted a mother of stealing her son from his homosexual father minutes before a jury was to begin deliberating in her case. "The evidence shows, in my view, that the mother, Betty Lou Batey, was consumed by fear," Superior Court Judge Douglas Woodward said. "I find the defendant not guilty." Mrs. Batey, 43, was said by her lawyer to have feared her son Brian, now 16, would be harmed by his father's homosexual lifestyle. She was charged with stealing Brian from his father's home recently after two years in foster homes. "I love both my parents," he said. Shouts of "Praise the Lord" came from a dozen of Mrs. Batey's fellow members of a Christian Fundamentalist Church when the judge announced his verdict.

John Paul II turns 67

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Papal headquarters were flooded with birthday greetings Monday as Pope John Paul II turned 67, but the Pontiff spent a normal working day. The Polish-born John Paul, who is named for St. Charles Borromeo, observes his "name day" on Nov. 4 rather than his birthday.

Courtroom kiss 'passed cocaine to accused'

ROME (R) — An Italian woman was arrested after apparently trying to pass her lover cocaine with a passionate kiss in a Rome courtroom, police said. Rossa Cioffi, 30, walked up to her boyfriend and kissed him on the mouth as he entered the dock to hear charges of drugs trafficking and then rushed out of the court. She was detained on suspicion of the same offence after the prosecutor noticed she had a capsule between her lips. Police said the capsule appeared to contain cocaine.

Sen. Simon joins race for Democratic nomination

CARBONDALE, Illinois